The implementation of the package is expected to mitigate the distress condition of farmers.

Problems of small and marginal farmers

†411.SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing agriculture policy has added to the problems being faced by farmers especially small and marginal farmers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite the slogan "Second Green Revolution" by Government, incidents of suicides by farmers have increased;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(d) if not, the details of efforts being made by Government to save farmers from dept particularly from money lenders, State-wise; and

(e) how far public sector banks are accountable for the suicide of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) Government is implementing a number of schemes for development of the agriculture sector. The strategies formulated, *inter alia*, include (i) enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers and strengthening of cooperative credit structure; (ii) ensuring the timely availability of quality inputs; (iii) promoting farmer friendly, demand drive agriculture extension system; (iv) accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture activities; (v) strengthening infrastructure and the supply chain; (vi) optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dry-land/rain fed farming system; (vii) reforming agricultural markets, and widespread use of post harvest technology; and (viii) putting in place a broader spectrum of risk management apparatus for farmers. The focus of agriculture credit policy is on progressive institutionalization for providing timely and adequate credit support to farmers with particular focus on small and marginal

†Original notice of question was received in Hindi.

farmers to enable them to adopt modern technology and improved agricultural practices for increasing agricultural production and productivity.

The incidents of suicide by farmers, as reported by the State Governments, do not indicate increasing trend in recent times.

In order to improve the flow of institutional credit and reduce dependence of farmers on informal sources of credit including private money lenders, the Government of India on 18th June, 2004 announced a special farm credit package. The package envisages that credit to agriculture sector from institutional sources will double in next three years. The package is applicable for the whole country.

(e) No such instances have been reported.

Production of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds

†412. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the productivity of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in our country is very low in comparison to China and other leading countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps taken by Government to provide modern equipments, biological manures and soft loans to the small farmers for scientific cultivation;

(d) whether Government propose to adopt the methodology of China in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, whether Government would formulate any package for small farmers to enhance the agriculturai production and to remove their economic backwardness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANITLAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The productivity of foodgrains, pulses and oilseeds in our country is very low in comparison

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